

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 031935Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

/AMCONSUL BOMBAY 6513

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SK, IN

SUBJECT: SIKKIM

REF: NEW DELHI 8716

1. THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE CHOGYAL AND THE SIKKIM ASSEMBLY DEEPENED JULY 2 WHEN THE ASSEMBLY REFUSED TO CONVENE, DESPITE THE REQUEST BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY (AND SIKKIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER), IAS OFFICER B.S. DAS. TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE THIRTY-ONE SIKKIM CONGRESS MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY SIGNED A MESSAGE TO DAS SAYING THERE WAS NO POINT IN MEETING AND ASKED THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IMMEDIATE EFFECT TO THE CONSISTITUTION BILL IF THE CHOGYAL DID NOT APPROVE IT HIMSELF BY JULY 3. KAZI LHENDUP DORJI, LEADER OF THE SIKKIM CONGRESS, REFUSED TO RESPOND TO AN INVITATION BY THE CHOGYAL FOR A MEETING AND INSISTED THE CHOGYAL HAD ALREADY HAD ADEQUATE TIME TO ACT. HE SAID THE ASSEMBLY

WOULD NOT AGREE TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE CHOGYAL UNTIL HE HAD ASSENTED TO THE BILL. FOR HIS PART, THE CHOGYAL ISSUED A STATEMENT JULY 3 ACCUSING THE ASSEMBLY OF THWARTING PROPER
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PROCEDURES BY MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO REFER THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY.

2. COMMENT: THE CHOGYAL'S POSITION HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED TACTICALLY BY THE REJECTION OF HIS APPARENT EFFORT TO FOLLOW MRS. GANDHI'S AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ADVICE TO TALK AND MEET WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SIKKIM ASSEMBLY. THE GOI IS NOW UNCOMFORTABLY IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN THE CHOGYAL AND ASSEMBLY AND IS CLEARLY HAVING DIFFICULTY IN BRINGING EITHER SIDE INTO LINE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD AVOID AN UNWANTED, UNEQUIVOCAL INDIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION FOR OR AGAINST THE CHOGYAL.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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